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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takeyoshi ISOGAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3729

Application No.: 10/024,328

Examiner: M. Trinh

Filed: December 21, 2001

Docket No.: 111495

For: ELECTRIC-COMPONENT HOLDING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO PATENT OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to July 1, 2004 Patent Office Communication, Applicants provisionally elect Species 1A, Figures 1-8. Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 12 are readable on the elected species. Further, it is submitted claim 1 is generic to all species. This election is made with traverse.


As set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.146, a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The examination of all of the species together in one application will not place an undue burden on the Examiner. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement is improper in view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his Election of Species Requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-16 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is

respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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